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SOURCE Prace.BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF NEW CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTERSJulius Maurer

The Minister of Heavy Machine Building, Julius Maurer, was born 18 June 1896. His father was a lathe operator. Maurer left school when 14 and went to work in a steel mill in Krompach, where he learned his trade of metal turner. During the period of the Austro-Hungarian empire he worked in several Hungarian factories and during the first republic he worked at the ironworks in Krompach. He became active in the labor movement in 1915 and was a charter member of the KSC (Czechoslovak Communist Party.) From 1921 until 1925, he worked in the Party organization in Kosice, at first as an okres and later as a kraj secretary. Under the government of the Austro-Hungarian empire he was jailed several times. In October 1925, he emigrated to USSR where he remained until 1944. While there, he worked at his trade until 1929, when he became active in the finance department of the People's Commissariat. From 1931 until 1934, he studied national economic planning at the All-Union Communist Party Academy and completed his course with outstanding success. After this he was employed by the state organization in Moscow.

During the war he joined the Soviet Army as a political worker and after the liberation of Czechoslovakia he was active in various public and party offices. He was chairman of the Kraj Committee of the KSC in Kosice, president of the Kraj Executive Committee of the NF (National Front) in Kosice, representative of the Inspection Division of the State Planning Office, Deputy Minister of Industry, and held other offices. Since September 1951, he has been Deputy Minister of General Machine Building. He is a member of the Central Committee of the KSS (Slovak Communist Party), deputy of the Central Committee of the KSC and a member of the Presidium of the Slovak Committee of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Union.

Josef Pospisil

Josef Pospisil, the Minister of Railroads, was born 11 March 1909 in Vienna. After graduating from the higher industrial technical school, he was employed in Kralovo Pole in a machinery manufacturing plant, where he worked as a designer. In 1936, he was made a dispatcher by the CSD (Czechoslovak State Railroads) and in 1945 he became the stationmaster of Opatov. In 1946, he was elected member of the Zeme (Provincial) National Committee and, in 1948, he was made chairman of the Kraj National Committee in Pardubice.

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For his outstanding political activity, especially in February of 1948, he was honored by the Order of the 25th of February, second grade. In the 1948 elections he was elected to the National Assembly and in December 1951 became deputy of the Central Manager of the CSD and later was named Deputy Minister of Transportation.

On Saturday morning, 2 August, the Minister of Transportation, Antonin Pospisil, installed former Deputy Minister Josef Pospisil as the first Minister of the newly formed Ministry of Railroads.

Among those present were: a deputy of the Central Committee of the KSC; Vaclav Simanek, Central Secretary of the ROH /Revolutionary Trade Union Movement/ in the Ministry of Transportation, other ROH deputies, and close coworkers in the ministry. When introducing the new minister of railroads, Antonin Pospisil stated that the division of the duties of the Ministry of Transportation between two ministries will facilitate the enormous undertaking contemplated, which is a complete reorganization of the railroad system to conform more closely to the Soviet pattern.

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